Kerosene for distribution under the PDS is allocated to different States/UTs by the Central Government by following a uniform criteria. kerosene allocated to Arunachal Pradesh during the last five years is as under:

(figures in MT)

Year	Allocation	Upliftment
1996-97	9675*	11399
1997-98	11051	10707
1998-99	10240	10011
1999-2000	10917	10835
2000-2001	10346	9896
2001-2002 (upto June, 2001)	2520	2486

* Does not include additional allocation made in connection with elections.

No demand has been received from Government of Arunachal Pradesh so far for the allocation of imported Edible oil during the last five years.

Reduction in issue price of foodgrains under PDS

1219. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people purchasing grains from PDS in the category of Below the Poverty Line and the category Above the Poverty Line;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the issue price of foodgrains meant for the majority of the people who are under nourished; and

(c) if so, by when it is to be executed utilise the foodgrains stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The estimated number of BPL families is 6.52 crores and the estimated number of AP families is 11.50 crores as on 1.3.2000 in the country for whom allocation of foodgrains is made under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The statistics relating to the percentage of people purchasing grains from the Fair Price Shop is not maintained in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the low offtake of foodgrains in respect of APL families, the Government has decided to allocate foodgrains to the APL families at the discounted rate of 70% of the economic cost w.e.f 12.7.2001 and upto 31.3.2002.

Poor Performance of PDS

1220. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for a poor offtake under PDS; and

(b) the action taken to improve quick delivery system, proper monitoring and ensure effective distribution of the mountain of foodgrains lying with Government to feed the under nourished and hungry "janata"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Offtake of foodgrains from the Public Distribution System (PDS) is dependent on the difference between the open market prices and the PDS and retail prices, availability of foograins in the open market, purchasing power of the PDS consumers especially people belonging to the BPL category and food habits of the consumers. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains meant for distribution to the families living below poverty line have been kept at levels which are lower than the market prices to ensure higher offtake. The offtake for BPL families has been about 80% of the allotment during 1999-2000. The offtake of foodgrains under BPL category has been about 66.3% of the allotments during 2000-2001.